

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01470 080920Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-01 PPT-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05
PC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EUR-12 EA-10 L-03 CPR-01
SCS-03 CA-01 COME-00 SSO-00 /096 W
-----009874 080943Z /14

R 080800Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0056

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINT, CASC, DM, US
SUBJ: PROPOSED BENINESE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF: A. COTONOU 439, B. COTONOU 768

1. ON AUGUST 31 EMBASSY RECEIVED FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE DATED AUGUST 11 AND ADDRESSED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN BENIN INFORMING THEM THAT AN AUTHORIZATION FOR TRAVEL INTO THE "INTERIOR" AND FOR DEPARTURE FROM THE COUNTRY WOULD BE REQUIRED BY ALL DIPLOMATS AND MUST BE APPLIED FOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE. THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL NOTICE THAT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED OF A DECREE TO THIS EFFECT FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 3 EDITION OF EHUZU, THE BENINESE GOVERNMENT DAILY NEWSPAPER. UNTIL NOW, THE EMBASSY HAS DISREGARDED THIS DECREE AND HAS NOT MET WITH ANY SERIOUS PROBLEMS. AN EMBASSY OFFICER LEAVING BENIN FOR LAGOS AND RETURNING SEPT 3 ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY AT THE BORDER, THOUGH HE HAD NOT COMPLIED WITH THIS DIRECTIVE. EMBASSY OFFICERS TRAVELLING IN THE INTERIOR OF BENIN HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SHOW THEIR TRAVEL PERMITS BUT HAVE MANAGED TO TALK LOCAL OFFICIALS INTO ACCEPTING THEIR DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS AS A SUBSTITUTE. THIS COULD CHANGE AT ANY MOMENT, HOWEVER, AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL COULD FIND

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THEMSELVES IN POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATIONS. THE EXPERIENCE

OF SOME THIRD COUNTRY DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR PERMITS IS THAT THEY OFTEN ARE NOT GRANTED, EITHER DUE TO UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW TRAVEL OR BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY.

2. FORMIN HAS ALSO NOTIFIED FRENCH EMBASSY THAT FRENCH AMB IS NO LONGER DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND THAT FUNCTION AND TITLE WILL HENCEFORTH FALL TO AMB WITH LONGEST TENURE IN BENIN. THAT IS CURRENTLY THE ZAIRIAN AMB, WHO WILL SHORTLY BE LEAVING BENIN. NEW DEAN OF CORPS WILL THEN BE CHINESE AMB.

4. DUE TO HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE, ZAIRIAN AMB DOES NOT WISH TO TAKE UP PROBLEM WITH GPRB. NO HELP CAN BE EXPECTED FROM CHINESE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE TAKES OVER. CHARGE IS CONTACTING GERMAN AND GHANIAN CHARGES AND FRENCH, EGYPTIAN AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADORS IN ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE CONCERTED ACTION. WE ARE SUGGESTING THAT INTERESTED HEADS OF MISSIONS GO AS A GROUP TO FORMIN SOONEST TO PROTEST THIS DECREE.

4. WILL ADVISE RESULTS OF VISIT. CREAGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: COTONOU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770987/aaaacvpv.tel
Line Count: 78
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Retention: 0
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